

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A blade assembly that can be assembled into a
2 medical device used to cut a cornea, comprising:
3 a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a
4 pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge
5 and said rear edge, said blade having a notch in one of
6 said side edges; and,
7 a blade holder that is coupled to said blade.
- 1 2. The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade
2 has a notch at said rear edge.
- 1 3. The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said rear
2 edge has a plurality of fingers.
- 1 4. The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade
2 holder is attached to an edge of said notch.

1 5. The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade
2 holder is coupled to said blade by a frictional fit.

1 6. The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade
2 holder has a clip that is attached to said blade.

1 7. The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade
2 can pivot relative to said blade holder.

1 8. The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade
2 holder has a cavity.

1 9. A blade assembly that can be assembled into a
2 medical device used to cut a cornea, comprising:

3 a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge that has a
4 notch, and a pair of side edges that extend between said
5 cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

6 a blade holder that is coupled to said blade at
7 said notch.

1 10. The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade
2 has a notch at each side edge.

1 11. The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said rear
2 edge has a plurality of fingers.

1 12. The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade
2 holder is attached to an edge of said notch.

1 13. The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade
2 holder is coupled to said blade by a frictional fit.

1 14. The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade
2 holder has an outer groove.

15. The blade assembly of claim 9, wherein said blade
holder has a cavity.

1 16. A blade assembly that can be assembled into a
2 medical device used to cut a cornea, comprising:

3 a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a
4 pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge
5 and said rear edge, said rear edge having a plurality of
6 fingers; and,

7 a blade holder that has a plurality of slots that
8 receive said fingers of said blade.

1 17. The blade assembly of claim 16, wherein blade has
2 a notch at each side edge.

1 18. The blade assembly of claim 16, wherein said blade
2 holder is attached to an edge of said fingers.

1 19. The blade assembly of claim 16, wherein said blade
2 holder is attached to said blade by a frictional fit.

1 20. The blade assembly of claim 16, wherein said blade
2 holder has a cavity.

1 21. A blade assembly that can be assembled into a
2 medical device used to cut a cornea, comprising:

3 a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a
4 pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and
5 said rear edge, each side edge having a notch; and,
6 a blade holder that has a pair of clips that are
7 attached to said blade at said blade notches.

1 22. The blade assembly of claim 21, wherein blade
2 holder can move relative to said blade.

1 23. The blade assembly of claim 21, wherein said blade
2 holder is attached to said blade by a frictional fit.

1 24. A method for constructing a blade assembly,
2 comprising:

3 placing a blade holder onto a blade so that the blade
4 holder is coupled to the blade with a frictional fit.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the blade is
2 placed into a stop.

1 26. The method of claim 24, wherein the blade is
2 placed into a clamp.

1 27. A method for controlling a distance between a
2 cutting edge of a blade and a reference surface of a blade
3 holder, wherein the blade and blade holder can be assembled
4 into a medical device that can cut a cornea, comprising:
5 moving a blade holder onto a blade until a reference
6 surface engages a tool.

1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the tool is a
2 stop pin.

1 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the tool is a
2 clamp.

1 30. A blade assembly that can be assembled into a
2 medical device used to cut a cornea, comprising;
3 a blade; and
4 a blade holder coupled to said blade, said blade holder
5 having a cavity.

1 31. The blade assembly of claim 30, wherein said blade
2 holder has a contoured top surface.

1 32. A blade assembly that can be assembled into a
2 medical device used to cut a cornea, comprising;

3 a blade; and

4 a blade holder coupled to said blade, said blade holder
5 having a plurality of fingers.